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NEA
5/16/57

FROM: Baghdad

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 1901, May 14, 7

PRIORITY

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Called on King Saud at my request this afternoon. Was most cordially received. Jamal Huseini did the interpreting.

After only brief exchange of pleasantries, Saud said he wished to talk about Jordan.

I assured him that we fully appreciate the seriousness of the present situation in Jordan and that I understood that further aid to Jordan was under study in Washington.

He said he was glad to hear this. I then remarked how happy we all were that he had come to Baghdad. We looked upon close cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Iraq as a very important stabilizing factor in the area. We felt his presence here now (repeat now), when the Jordan situation was a matter of such deep concern to all of us, was most fortunate. I hoped he was happy about his stay in Iraq.

Saud thanked me. He said he wanted to see the two countries working closely together. He was happy about how the talks in Baghdad had been going. He hoped they would lead to something fruitful and open the way for wider, fuller cooperation.

He seemed genuinely pleased when I inquired about the health of Prince Mashur. He told me with warm feeling that the little prince was still receiving many letters from well-wishing children in the United States.

The official

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-2- 1901, May 14, 7 p.m. from Baghdad

The official part of King Saud's visit ends tonight. He and his party will, however, stay on in Baghdad a day or two longer. On the 17th they expect to be in Basra and on the 18th back in Riyadh.

GALLMAN

SW:AH

SECRET

MAY 20 1901